

REMARKS

Claims 1 - 14 are pending in the application. Claims 1 - 14 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 and Claim 14 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101. The rejections are traversed. New claims are being added to the application.

Regarding 102 Rejection

Claims 1 - 14 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Bergman et al. (U.S. Patent 5,909,678).

Briefly, the Applicants describe a system for editing query conditions, calculations, formulas and equations using hyperlinks. The hyperlinks can be selected so that a user can edit the value. Using hyperlinks for editing is useful in the sense that a user can edit in a familiar environment with a more readable interface.

As claimed, a hyperlink is displayed within a form so as to indicate to the user that the hyperlink value can be edited. The user can then select the hyperlink, which allows the user to interact with an element; i.e., the value, using a control. The user can edit the element, which results in the creation of a new element; i.e., a modified hyperlink.

Bergman discusses a system that utilizes a drag and drop template to compose a structured natural language query. (Col. 5, Lines 8-10). The structured natural language query is created using a query template and a placeholder known as a phrase receptacle. This phrase receptacle is capable of receiving iconic representations of objects; i.e., query components. (Col. 2, Line 53-54). The iconic representations of objects can be selected by a user, then dragged and dropped onto a phrase receptacle. For example, in Fig. 3, the user has dragged and dropped the object “within” 125 into a phrase receptacle. Upon dropping the “within” object into the phrase receptacle 220, the phrase receptacle automatically expands to accommodate the “within” sub phrase template. (Col. 7, Lines 50-56). In this way, Bergman provides a means to drag and drop iconic objects; i.e., query components, into a phrase receptacle to generate a structured natural language query.

The Applicants claim “*displaying a hyperlink for an element in the form, to indicate to a user that a control is available for the element.*” Bergman, in contrast, does not discuss the concept of using hyperlinks in relation to editing information. Thus, Bergman does not teach

every claim limitation of Claim 1. The Applicants respectfully request that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Bergman be withdrawn.

For at least the same reasons, dependent Claims 2-10 and 12 should be allowable. Independent Claims 11, 13, and 14 have similar limitations and should also be allowable for the reasons stated above.

Regarding 101 Rejection

Claim 14 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter. The Applicants respectfully disagree.

Claim 14 is directed to “*a computer data signal embodied in a carrier wave for editing a form.*” As explained in MPEP § 2106(IV)(B)(1)(c) “...a signal claim directed to a practical application of electromagnetic energy is statutory regardless of its transitory nature.” Because Claim 14 is a signal claim directed to a practical application of electromagnetic signals by using a program code segment for displaying, presenting, and replacing, it is a statutory claim. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully urge that Claim 14 is in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is believed that all claims are in condition for allowance, and it is respectfully requested that the application be passed to issue. If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this case, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

HAMILTON, BROOK, SMITH & REYNOLDS, P.C.

By


Rodney D. Johnson

Registration No. 36,558

Telephone: (978) 341-0036

Facsimile: (978) 341-0136

Concord, MA 01742-9133

Dated:

September 24, 2004